GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3474
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
TRADE ENVIRONMENT IN INDIA
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world economic forum has pointed out that India lacks in creating a conducive trade environment;

(b) if so, whether India ranked 21st position in the recent global enabling report, 2008;

(c) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve India`s position in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c): The World Economic Forum has released a Report entitled ``The Global Enabling Trade Report 2008`. The Report compares 118 global economies through the Enabling Trade Index(ETI), which breaks the enablers into four overall issues (subindexes) viz., (1) Market Access,(2) Border Administration, (3) Transport And Communications Infrastructure, and (4) the business environment. In the Report, India has been ranked at 71st position overall and 105, 55, 52 and 58 on the above subindexes respectively.

(d): Reforms of trade enabling policies are an ongoing process. In this context India has initiated various efforts including setting up of `ICEGATE`, 'eTrade` and `eBiz` under the National e-governance programme. ICEGATE aims to provide e-filing services to the trade and cargo carriers and other clients of Customs & Central Excise. The objective of `eTrade` is to provide online services by regulatory and facilitating organizations, 24 hours access to users, increase transparency in procedures, reduce transaction cost and time, introduce international standards and best practices, and enable clearance of export/import of cargo at ports/airports/ICDs etc. The eBiz project aims to provide various integrated services including registration and filing payments electronically to investors and business houses. In addition, the other relevant reforms are single windows, online registrations, simplification of taxes and its payments, reduction of documents through composite form for various licenses/permissions, adoption of national and international best practices etc., are being implemented in association with various State governments.